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>>For the Record<<

Is the following battle-of-the-wills over fundamental moral values ending soon?

SCRABBLE DETECTIVE

In an effort to internationalise the game, a group of nutcases periodically revise the allowed vocabulary. Scrabble vocabulary developed into a bizarre jargon claimed to cover words from other languages. If you only play with friends, use any dictionary without the word "Scrabble" on its cover. This blog is more relevant to Australian players. If you get bored with ranting about Scrabble and the incompetence of its custodians in Australia, logon to my politics blog

<http://hegazi.blogspot.com.au/>

Saturday, November 29, 2014

THE REFURBISHED COMMITTEE

The 2014 AGM of ASPA(Vic) Inc. voted in a committee comprised mostly of the same manipulative old faces, with a minor change of adding a brand new worthy young player. In the succinct words of a thoughtful observer, the young member was like "a seed landing on a field of sand". Nothing worthwhile is to be expected from the new committee. So, if you are following this thread, come back for real news after **5 January 2015**.

See you then.

Posted by [Mohammed A. Hegazi](#) at 10:57 AM

Wednesday, October 29, 2014

ONE NECESSARY EMAIL

The email below was sent to all ASPA(Vic) members in reply to the exchange between Harry Malcolm and Carol Johnsen. I am posting it here for the benefit of others.

Harry is a simple down-to-earth person of superb human qualities. He writes and speaks as he feels. The problem with Harry is that he projects a very different image. You need to know him very closely in order to appreciate his qualities. Without him, I could have been overrun by a coven of broomstick commuters.

From: Mohammed A. Hegazi
To: ASPA (Vic) members
Subject: Right of Reply
24 Oct 2014

Obfuscation and half truths are no substitute for facts. I will try to confine myself to facts related to my court case against ASPA(Vic) Inc.

Fact 1:

In 2008 Marjorie Miller and 3 other members of her committee made allegations against me and issued a decision that I was "guilty of conduct unbecoming a member of the Association and prejudicial to the interests of the Association." The procedure, by which such action was taken, might sound proper to a simple-minded group of lay people; but under common law, which overrides the Association's constitution, it would be deemed illegal.

Fact 2:

In August 2011 Tess Robinson, seconded by Jeoff Wright, moved a request for an apology to me in relation to an unfounded-dated-hearsay allegation of cheating. A competent committee would not have tabled such unsubstantiated allegation for discussion. ASPA(Vic) members at the time were not aware of all the facts surrounding the vindictive acts of ASPA(Vic) committee between 2008 and 2011. Therefore, they did not support the motion.

Fact 3:

In November 2011 a meeting between 2 committee members and myself, assisted by Harry Malcolm, was suggested. I requested that the committee be represented by uninvolved members. I gave Carol Johnsen the option of selecting representatives from a list of the following uninvolved members:

[Jenny Brysha](#)
[Dianne Gibson](#)
[Cheryle Jerram](#)
[Sandra Masel](#)

Ms Johnsen refused, point-blank, claiming that my suggestion was "unagreeable". Mediation failed because she was involved as both adversary and mediator.

Fact 4:

In 2012 Mediation at the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria was unsuccessful because the committee was represented by members who made allegations against me. Namely, Carol Johnsen, Marjorie Miller and Trevor Halsall.

Fact 5:

Legal action was the only option left for me. Neither the committee nor the membership of ASPA(Vic) can claim that I have not exhausted all possible avenues.

ASPA(Vic) had the chance, in the last pre-hearing, to settle the matter under the following conditions, in totality:

- (a) Repealing the flawed decision of 2008.
- (b) Admitting that I never cheated.
- (c) The agreement to be published in the national December edition of "Across the Board".

ASPA(Vic), represented by Marjorie Miller and Carol Johnsen refused. The case progressed to a hearing on 05/01/2015.

Fact 6:

An agreement between solicitors in the coming few weeks would save the two sides the cost of briefing and hiring barristers for the hearing. This cannot happen under a lame committee of 6 members, which includes 4 adversaries who do not want to be exposed as biased or incompetent.

Fact 7:

I am not contesting any positions on a new committee, at least until my personal dispute with ASPA(Vic) is resolved. I am only interested in playing clean scrabble, where ALL players abide by ALL rules.

Mohammed Hegazi

Member of ASPA (Vic) Inc.

P. S.:

All of the above can be substantiated by exchanged emails.

Posted by [Mohammed A. Hegazi](#) at [1:36 AM 2 comments](#): [Links to this post](#)

Thursday, October 23, 2014

A NOT-SO-PRIVATE EMAIL

As a member of ASPA(Vic), I am in receipt of the email below. I usually comment on similar occasions. However, on this one, I would rather leave it to the reader, without any subjective comments from me.

Reference is made to certain occurrences that might be unknown to the reader. If so, please email me confidentially and I would be able to explain.

Mohammed Hegazi

mohammedhegazi@gmail.com

from: carol johnsen **caroljscrabble@gmail.com**

to: carol johnsen

bcc: **mohammedhegazi@gmail.com**

date: 22 October 2014 21:46

subject: Email to Carol Johnsen from Harry Malcolm

Dear ASPA (Vic) Members,

I am greatly disturbed by an email I received from Harry Malcolm on October 1 (below) after I had sought for the Moderator of Ozscrabble to ask Harry Malcolm to stop denigrating ASPA (Vic) and committee members on the Ozscrabble site.

I showed this to some members recently and they all asked that I should send it out to our membership as it was certainly not in the interests of the Association.

Carol Johnsen

From: Harry Malcolm

to: Carol Johnsen

Oct 1

Wakey wakey, its over

We have bit our tongues for best part of a decade while you obfuscated and paid lip service to professional expectations, unrolled the nightmare to us of realising an incompetent was in power, and led the raining of abuse on us.

Wagged your misleading tongues in your favour and against us; even while telling members not to discuss this sordid case.. but

We have endured, and been proven right all along.

Do us all a favor and step down, leave quietly.

You and Marj have led Vic scrabble to a train wreck.

It's not the fault of online, or of members passing on..

The longer you maintain the facade over your utter incompetence, now confirmed to me from unexpected others. You have nothing left but to try and gag and control to the death, and continue to besmirch Mo as you desperately do trying to make the bizarre cheating claims stick, in fear for your due and pending humiliation which you can only postpone, not stop... trying to make some dirt stick, hoping to keep some of the fooled membership remnants still sobbing for you, **the more is going to come out** about your appalling performance and baseless supreme arrogance.

In time it's what you will be remebered for despite your claques still half beating heart for you... I will not stand by and tolerate any of what you did to still stand

unless as a monument to **what future Committees will never do**, and memberships will be vigilantly watching out and auditing contrived cases based on revenge motives and using manipulation and hearsay.. fabricating a house of cards.. a beat up childish making of porky pies...

From the first chance at mature reconciliation of the matter offered by me confidentially (when from first impressions I briefly trusted you were competent) to which you responded with the haughty and inappropriate bullying response to me I realised you were a bod straight from the antibully textbook warnings and that you lived in blissful ignorance of your own unlawful ways.

Even if you survive November elections.....

or organise spot fillers like Arjun Haria eventually the membership will put together what you did to Mo how the race card was used to beat up on a perfect gentleman of integrity and generosity well known and liked in other states he found decent leadership in how you, Marj, Norma and Trevor had the gall to misrepresent conciliation matters to the rest of committee and your shocker "no agenda" meeting where mob mentality was unleashed by you in your incompetence how a member hollered in my face claiming outrage that I'd expressed concern for my kids welfare if this committee ruled scrabble.

I'll say it again, if any of the terrible 4 are out of control in this organisation, **my children will not be members** and then altered minutes took 5 weeks to be released losing reliability and gaining more re-lie-ability.

..... a no confidence motion in the following months in full glare of members reflection on what youse did will make you do what you ought do yourself, step down or get thrown down.

Think how you were alerted that Marj initially bullied by dumping on him secretly when he was the one with integrity, refusing to name people... she dumped on him to me and then like you playing the "poor me" card to set Mo on fire in a public pyre, and leading so many who did not audit you or her to mob mentality and severe injury and distress on an innocent person.

And now you have the hide to tell the scrabble world my disclosures are not right and you want them smothered (while you exact forced acceptance of cheating claims, which you will get over my dead body) (and while you fake it long enough to fool the committee huggers that Psychologist tell us will never realise) (even when you parasite my initiatives which is what your ilk does, being bereft of competent leadership).

Its over Carol, you have had 10 years, scrabble Vic is ruined, it's just a club now, not an associatuion.

You have been an embarrassment. Only a new broom can sweep clean. I am that new broom, and you won't find me ever seeking false sympathy to excuse incompetence and arrogance **I have never shown,** and which you will never recognise in yourself.

If you now persist with any of your manipulative, obfuscating and bullying ways expect a personal legal challenge from me and the emergence of documents from your decade of hell for public scrutiny, if that's what it takes.

As Benjamin Disraeli quoted re bullying: **Where there is smoke there is fire, the smoke is the bullies smoke screen, the fire is endurance until justice by the victim.**

No one has made your position untenable except you. No one has shown bullying conduct but the committee, in particular the lead 4, the others now waking up to realise slowly the 4 fooled them.

If you mislead the members that I did anything unreasonable, I have all the documents to show how youse did not act reasonably and then conspired to bring disrepute on anyone assisting the fight towrads justice and integrity.

Have I made my opinions clear?

Others have just left scrabble, citing your coven as 'the bitches' or that scrabble is plunging towards just being your committee.

Wake up, time's up.

You, Marj and Norma, will remain welcome to run Box Hill events if you wish, gratitude will be shown... you can even be on the committee, and learn what it should have been like all along, **restorative not punitive,** expanding not contracting.

You can enjoy pub scrabble again and not be pulling the plug on everyone's fun..

The Country Champs will boom again and no unethical entries will sneak in...

I will happily refer you to multiple texts by psychologists of world class pre eminence that will be used if you are unable to abate the bullying ways...and to convince you that your behaviour has been of a classic bullying nature.

It's over, better for all youse step aside and let new keen younger people revive scrabble rather than you being forced to do so, and maybe one day you will apologise to the other committee members for your utter incompetence and self preservation driven actions.

It would be **far beyond you to ever apologise** to Mo or myself, despite the flagrant bullying you subjected us to while telling members who could not audit you that you were being so good.

You'll just trot out your accumulated smoke screen excuses and denial of responsibility...I remind you of some classics... "we are not legal people (Oh yes you are) , we did our best (for immature officers) , we followed the rules (lie)"

Tell everyone you need a break, blame us and expect consequences..., whatever... I'm sure you can spin a hard luck story and get the unknowing to applaud you wildly while the knowing stay away and feel nauseated.

Any way you look at it it's time to let others have a chance to resuscitate our great game. Don't bother putting together a puppet committee, or a token president; you will only hurt more people when they realise and it will collapse like the one you have just led to ruin.

I've written to you in confidence before and you reacted immaturity and I was proven 100% right. I'm right again now. Only a fool repeats mistakes.

The only two things you can do immediately to save any face is

1) retract all the cheating claims in every place where he was besmirched, world internet included.

2) Publish an unconditional letter to WA advising them that their actions against him cannot stand as they are based on Vic ASPA outcomes that are now considered utterly unfair, unreliable, invalid and of no substance.

These two issues will achieve that end, whatever it takes, and you will be known for not having the decency to know when you have been exposed and **stop further costs, divisiveness and trauma.**

I'm astonished Mo is not seeking his costs from your personal hides, have you no shame for your assault on him?

Are we going to get an appropriate falling on your sword, or is there going to be continued horrors until the same conclusion is reached anyhow, and possibly much more costly for you.

All that said, **I'm sure you can (all) continue to be nice people.** It's just the behaviour that has to stop and your hold and abuse of power has to be ended.

It's hurting too many people.

Posted by [Mohammed A. Hegazi](#) at **1:06 AM**

Sunday, October 19, 2014

A PRIVATE EMAIL

Hello G,

It is not a touring circus to come your way. You have to make it to Melbourne. It's worth the trip. After all, those two are the only "Grand Masters" I have ever heard of in the land of Oz.

Common folks like you and me, who might require clinical services, may not have another chance to secure a back seat among the audience. Book early:

Open to all

This Tuesday 7.00pm, 21 October

Grand Masters T and A host a COACHING CLINIC at the NUNAWADING CLUB, 16 Station Street, Mitcham

Melways 48 J9

Posted by [Mohammed A. Hegazi](#) at **8:16 AM**

Friday, October 3, 2014

COURT CASE PROGRESS REPORT 2

On 10 Sept 2014, we had a pre-hearing mark 1. ASPA(Vic) agreed to repeal their 2008 flawed decision if each party would pay their legal cost. I agreed for the sake of ending the saga, and to preserve funds.

On 02 Oct 2014 we had a pre-hearing mark 2, where I wanted to include a clause to the effect that I am not a cheat. ASPA(Vic) delegates disagreed. Thus, the Registrar issued an order that a hearing would be conducted on 5 January 2015. This means that every party would hire a barrister. The losing party would be up for much extra cost.

Well, it turns out that it has become more of a personal vendetta with each party representing themselves. I stand for myself using my own funds for litigation, while Marjorie Miller and Carol Johnsen stand for themselves using ASPA(Vic) funds for litigation. I know that I never cheated. The two ladies would love to continue to tarnish my name by not admitting that I never cheated. They are the least suited to represent ASPA(Vic) in this matter, because they are directly or indirectly involved in making false unsubstantiated cheating allegations against me. But this is a matter for the membership of ASPA(Vic) to decide.

The one question that baffles me is: Does Marjorie Miller, and her few friends, own ASPA(Vic)? If so, why register it as an incorporated association? Why not register it as ASPA of Marjorie Miller and Co Pty Ltd?

Anyway, if the losers do not settle outside court on 05/01/2015, still incurring the extra cost of hiring barristers for the day, I would give you another report after the hearing. I have a fair idea what such report would be like, since I believe that I am standing on very solid legal ground. But let's wait and see.

Of course there are other possibilities, should a new or a refurbished committee of 10 wise members replace the present 6, mostly incompetent incumbents, next November. But it is up to ASPA(Vic) membership to contemplate the fate of their Association. And in all honesty, it is becoming less and less of much concern to me. If people elect to be blind, they can enjoy the darkness.

Posted by [Mohammed A. Hegazi](#) at **12:00 AM**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

COURT CASE PROGRESS REPORT 1

The pre-hearing was conducted on 10/09/2014. There are some procedural routine matters that would take at least one more week before the court would decide on a hearing date.

If you are fully aware of all aspects of this unique case, you can guess the final outcome. Courts are fair institutions. No amount of obfuscation,

pretence or plastic smiles can affect their judgement.

Thursday, September 18, 2014

COURT CASE PROGRESS REPORT 1

OBFUSCATION IS THE NAME OF THE GAME

Members of ASPA(Vic) are in receipt of this circular:

Dear Members,

As some of you may be aware, Mohammed Hegazi, a current ASPA (Vic) Inc. member, recently filed a Complaint and Statement of Claim in the Victorian Magistrates' Court against Marjorie Miller, the current Secretary of ASPA (Vic) Inc. Mr Hegazi's claim arises from the Committee decision in 2008 to suspend his participation in Victorian rated tournaments for 12 months as a result of various complaints which had been lodged with the Committee. Mr Hegazi complied with the suspension from October 2008 to September 2009, and has resumed playing in Victorian rated tournaments.

In suing Mrs Miller, Mr Hegazi brought his action against the wrong party, as the decision to suspend him was made by ASPA (Vic) Inc., not Mrs Miller in her personal capacity. On 28 July, Mr Hegazi was given leave by the Magistrates' Court to substitute ASPA (Vic) Inc. as the defendant, and discontinue the proceeding against Mrs Miller.

The matter will now continue in the Magistrates' Court. A mediation has been listed for 10 September 2014, before a Registrar of the Court. The Committee is hopeful of resolving the dispute at mediation, and has attempted to resolve it with Mr. Hegazi on numerous occasions in the past three years.

If the matter does not settle at the mediation, it will likely proceed to a hearing, expected to be later in 2014.

As the dispute is a matter before the courts, the Committee would appreciate all members' restraint from discussing the matter with the Committee or Mr. Hegazi.

Yours faithfully,
CAROL JOHNSEN

President, ASPA (Vic) Inc.

The legal action is against an improper and illegal unfounded finding that I had been "guilty of conduct unbecoming a member of ASPA (Vic) Inc. and prejudicial to the interests of the Association." This baseless illegal nonsense is what is being challenged in the courts.

As to the ban from playing in Victorian tournaments, I was so disgusted, to the extent that I had a self-imposed much longer ban from 2008 to 2011.

Mediation has always been frustrated because the Committee, against my requests, has consistently chosen to be represented by

members who were personally involved in the dispute and had vested interest in frustrating mediation efforts, namely Carol Johnsen, Marjorie Miller and Trevor Halsall.

By the way, on 10/09/2014 there will be a "pre-hearing" to which ASPA(Vic) has been summoned by Ringwood Magistrates' Court. It is not a mediation session as claimed above.

Mediation was finished and done with in 2012 at the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria, Department of Justice.

If ASPA (Vic) make the same mistake and is represented by any delegate with vested interest in continuing to cover up (namely CJ, MM, and TH), the matter would progress to a hearing. It would certainly mean extra legal cost to the losing party. Courts are concerned with applying the letter of the law in a fair manner. They cannot be conned or swayed.

My return to play in Victoria began at the 2011 AGM tournament. It was for the sole purpose of observing the outcome of a motion moved by Tess Robinson and seconded by Geoff Wright.

Obfuscation and lies, together with a secret ballot, decided the outcome of that motion. Most members of the Association did not have all the relevant information.

From memory, the result of the motion was: 8 for, 35 against and 16 abstained. I did not cast a vote myself nor did Geoff or Tess, who were absent. Members of a committee of 10 casted votes. No proxies were available.

No one knows what the outcome could have been, if the committee were honest enough to divulge all the relevant information. Maybe an apology for such an outrageous lie could have settled the matter once and for all.

Upon persisting sincere requests from several concerned Vic members, I am gradually returning to play in Victorian tournaments.

ASPA(Vic) members can ask me any questions by email mohammedhegazi@gmail.com or discuss the matter with me in person, should they want any further clarification. I have nothing whatsoever to hide.

There is no legal obligation to prevent members from seeking information from me or anyone else. A member of the 2008 Committee has been quoted, "All they wanted was to get rid of him."

I am grateful to all members of ASPA(SA) for their continued warm welcome to all their regular tournaments, Matchplays and Pub tournaments. Nothing would prevent me from mingling with this superb SA membership, other than the hefty cost of travel.

Mohammed Hegazi

Member of ASPA (Vic) Inc.

Regular Visitor of ASPA (SA) Inc.

Posted by [Mohammed A. Hegazi](#) at 10:04 PM

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

THE LATEST ON THE LEGAL FRONT

The pre-hearing of 30/07/2014 has now been "vacated". This nice seven letter bingo would rid you of both the "V" and the "C", but in legal

jargon it means cancelled or abandoned. The reason is that on legal advice, I applied to the court in order to change the name of the defendant from "Marjorie Miller" to "Australian Scrabble Players Association (Victoria) Inc." The application order was granted. A new pre-hearing conference has been set for 10/09/2014.

The change would achieve two objectives. The first is to save us any more crocodile tears, the second is to ensure suing the Association as an entity represented by its Committee, not an individual.

Posted by [Mohammed A. Hegazi](#) at **3:16 PM**

Sunday, July 13, 2014

WHY LEGAL ACTION?

This blog is indeed a mess as far as the chronological order of posts is concerned. Unless you followed it since its inception in mid 2008, it would be hard for you to follow what I am mumbling about.

I started this blog as a means of highlighting the problem of cheating in scrabble, without the need to point fingers at any particular individuals. I was, and still am, aiming at improving the wording of the rules and to insure their proper application. I believe that the laxity of applying the rules at club level is behind their prevailing infringement at tournaments.

The result was the improper persecution of me by the committee of ASPA(Vic) in 2008 and after. To this very day, MM still claims that, "Mohammed picks on vulnerable old ladies".

When told by ME, my reply was to the effect that she was not a vulnerable old lady at the time I 'accused her of cheating' in 2005. When pressed to give me examples of the 'vulnerable old ladies', he cited MN. I told him that the lady in question is a close member of my club and would be the first to refute this claim.

So, MM is still continuing her hideous futile campaign of character assassination. She ignores the fact that, excluding her cronies, people who knew me firsthand would vouch to the absurdity of her claims.

Posted by [Mohammed A. Hegazi](#) at **9:41 AM**

Saturday, June 21, 2014

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

The legal battle is heating up. I intended to sue ASPA(Vic), but instead inadvertently sued Marjorie Miller, being the current Secretary. But that is alright. She is the main character in this defamatory affair. Her friends on the committee would be quick to help. It takes only a couple of signatures to dip into the Associations' funds. While both our colleague Harry Malcolm and myself tried in vain for six years to convince the incompetent committee to seek proper legal advice, they were now quick to hire

a firm of solicitors in order to try to fight a lost case and inflate the legal cost.

They now have a last chance to consider coming to terms with reality and raise the white flag at the forthcoming pre-hearing conference on 30/07/2014. Failure would result in progression to a hearing, which means extra cost to the losing party.

The legal system is a minefield of legal technicalities. I am negotiating it with extreme caution. Will post some good news after 5 weeks.

Posted by [Mohammed A. Hegazi](#) at **12:43 AM**

Tuesday, June 3, 2014

SEPARATED UNDER THE ONE ROOF

- If you have a nice venue for a three-day tournament, would you be happy?

- yes!

- If that venue has a large hall for playing and another adjacent smaller room for coffee and refreshments, would you be happier?

- certainly!

- On the third day, would you run an extra minor tournament in that quiet smaller room?

- Maybe.

- Can you imagine how noisy and crowded it would be?

- Dunno.

- But you would give it a try though?

- Yes, I would certainly give it a try. It might create a pleasant carnival atmosphere on the third day of the major function, when players would be too tired to notice.

- If you trialled it four times in four years, and it turned out to be too noisy for the major tournament, would you still run two separate tournaments under the same roof?

- Dunno, I think next year might be one year away. Numbers might go further down anyway. We try to save on hiring halls.

- But you are losing thousands very soon on litigation with one disenchanted member, who claims that he already got you legally by your proverbial testicles.

- What? Who said that?

- There are claims that your committee is incompetent, especially the stagnant permanent members, and is sure to be refurbished for 2015.

- Rubbish! conspiracy theories abound. There is no Hurry for any change. We are certainly competent beyond our own imagination.

Posted by [Mohammed A. Hegazi](#) at **10:29 AM**

Friday, May 16, 2014
[HEGAZI VS ASPA\(VIC\) COURT CASE](#)



At long last, the court case has been filed. I made it easy for Marj Miller by filing the case with the Magistrates' Court at Ringwood, which is quite close to her home.

We shall see now how scheming, obfuscation and deceit can withstand the force of the law. I will keep you informed when a hearing date is fixed. It would be the usual open hearing for the public, in case any members might be interested in watching the show that took about six years of trying to convince the culprits to be sensible and step back.

Posted by [Mohammed A. Hegazi](#) at 8:52 AM

Tuesday, April 29, 2014
[COMPLICATING SIMPLE RULES](#)

I am told of a new amendment to the rules: 10.2(e) will read: **"If your opponent has gone out, and hence neutralised the clock, you have approximately five seconds to accept or challenge the turn, otherwise your opponent is entitled to restart your clock".**

I am amazed by the tendency to complicate simple rules. This problem can be solved by a simple adjustment to Rule 11.1 as follows:
Current Rule:

11.1(a) The player going out must neutralize the clock on completion of the final move.

An alternative suggested change:

11.1(a) If your opponent has gone out, you should subsequently neutralise the clock and either challenge or declare the end of the game.

The above would replace 11.1(a), 11.1(b) and 11.1(c); 11.1(d) becomes 11.1(b).

This would negate the need for the suggested addition of five seconds, which could be subject to disagreement as to whether the clock was started after exactly five seconds or after less than five seconds. Such disagreement could be crucial if the player involved is running out of time.

The new rule is simply bestowing on a player an undeserved extra 5 seconds over and above their allotted time of 25 minutes. In order to stretch the imagination of our rules officers here is a possible scenario:

Player A finishes with all his tiles and the bag is empty. Player B has only a couple of seconds on their clock. If

player A is to neutralise the clock and wait for 5 seconds before starting player B's clock, it would simply mean that player B is getting 5 extra seconds more than his allocated time of 25 minutes. But if player A is to start player B's clock as an indication of the end of his turn, it would mean that player B is getting no more extra time on top of his allocated time of 25 minutes. All he has to do is to quickly neutralise the clock and either challenge or declare the game's end.

I believe that any change to the rules must be discussed and accepted by the membership of all states. It should not be left totally to rules officers.

P.S.:

I think the above details might be difficult to grasp without making elaborate examination of the quasi-legalese wording of the rules. What I meant by the above unfavourable critique is: Neutralising the clock on going out is wrong, since the game is not finished because the player at the receiving end still has the option of challenging the last play of the opponent. Therefore, it would be more sensible if the player going out would operate his/her opponent's clock, as usual, after declaring the score and the notion of going out. The opponent would then neutralise the clock and either challenge or declare the end of the game. If the challenge is successful, the challenged player takes his/her tiles off the board and the game continues. This last scenario emphasises the notion that GOING OUT IS NOT THE END OF THE GAME. THUS THE CLOCK SHOULD NOT BE NEUTRALISED ON GOING OUT. The player at the receiving end might be able to successfully challenge, then hook a bingo and win the game! So, going out is not necessarily the end of the game as initially thought by our rules engineers. It is a virtue to admit being wrong and to correct the initial rule error, instead of correcting a mistake with another mistake. Yes, giving a player extra seconds is really a funny way to correct a rule's error. Do the right thing instead of being in denial.

I cannot make it any clearer.

Posted by [Mohammed A. Hegazi](#) at 2:03 AM

Wednesday, April 23, 2014
[AN INSULTING COMPLIMENT](#)

*

From: Marj Miller

To: ozscrabble

Apr 21 at 10:35 PM

Well done to Daniel Piechnick from New South Wales for a really fine win in the 2014.

*

The above is more of an insult to Daniel. He is not just a passerby. It is well known far and wide within the scrabble community that Daniel

Piechnick is a long-established champion from South Australia, not NSW.

This reminds me of an old quip by an anonymous writer: *Some speakers are much more appreciated with their mouth shut.*

Posted by [Mohammed A. Hegazi](#) at **1:04 PM**

Monday, April 14, 2014

ASPA RULES OFFICERS

We do have so called "Rules Officers", who keep on dragging their feet towards rules reform. I suggested, in 2008 on this blog, the adoption of WESPA's rule 3.9.2(c), commonly known as the "open hand rule". It was adopted by ASPA as rule 5.2 many years later in 2013. Inforcing the rule is almost totally neglected by tournament directors.

I have been asking for a further adoption of WESPA's sensible rule no. 3.9.1, to replace ASPA's ridiculous rule 5.1, which decides on the height of the bag when drawing tiles. I asked on this blog, which is read by many ASPA players. I asked for the change on "Across the Board", only to get an irrelevant response by another reader. I emailed my suggestion to about all of ASPA rules officers and had no response.

I never formally asked for any drastic reforms such as performing the calculation of scores outside play time. Such radical suggestion, regardless of its obvious merits, would raise all sorts of pedantic objections.

The role of rules officers in this organisation still baffles me. Is it just an honorary job on one of ASPA's lists of dysfunctional officers?

Posted by [Mohammed A. Hegazi](#) at **8:48 AM**

Saturday, January 25, 2014

When Tournament Directors Lose the Plot

The last Ballarat Tournament had 32 players in 3 divisions:

Division A: 10 players with rating range 1255-1611;

Division B: 12 Players with rating range 747-1211;

Division C: 10 Players with rating range 500-861.

Don't ask why the lowest rating in division B is lower than the highest rating in division C. You would not get a satisfactory answer. It could be related to the weight, height or age of players.

The serious matter is that the TD in her wisdom, or lack thereof, told the congregation that it was a round robin, where each group of more than 7 players would play 6 rounds. Pairing was done in advance using a secret recipe known only to the ingenious TD. What she missed was that 32 players was an ideal figure for a round robin of 7

games and 4 groups. She would have returned home in Mornington even faster than she aimed to achieve by her innovation of "partial round robins".

Posted by [Mohammed A. Hegazi](#) at **7:41 AM**

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Riddling the Riddle

We have two versions of the results: the version declared by Marj Miller (MM) on the Ozscrabble forum, which we may call version 1; and the version declared by Carol Johnsen (CJ), which we may call version 2.

The latter version was finally accepted and recorded by Martin Waterworth. Martin can only go by the files forwarded to him. I assume that he had the two versions of the file. I also assume that he would rather not involve himself by comparing the two versions.

We also have two explanations of this anomaly, one given by Mohammed (MH) and another given by CJ, after being challenged by Harry Malcolm.

MH claims that if a single error, in recording the result of game 10 between him and Lina Camilleri (LC), is properly corrected by reversing the scores of 382/276, the outcome would be LC winning third place by a total margin of 378.

CJ claimed that another error cropped up later, which is a second error recording the result of game 6 between LC and Eileen Mills (EM). A win by LC in version 1 was corrected by reversing the scores. So instead of LC winning by 8 points, she lost to EM by that much.

Without any further documentation or much ado, the smoking gun becomes clear: If LC lost to EM by only 8 points, and won against MH by the huge margin of 106 points, how can you explain her total margin in version 1 being identical to her total margin in version 2?

Also, the only correction applied to EM results is a reversal of her score against LC, which involved a margin of 8 points only. How could you explain the total margin of EM leaping from 79 in version 1 to 109 in version 2?

There has to be a series of corrections applied to version 1 in order to produce version 2. You don't have to be a mathematician to come to this conclusion.

Version 1 of results published on Ozscrabble:

	W	M		Old	Chg	New
1	9	+670	Gillian Renwick	974	+56	1030
2	8	+303	Elize Plaganyi	803	+67	870
3	7	+320	Norma Engel	911	+24	935
4	6	+362	Lina Camilleri	802	+20	822
5	6	+95	Gayle Cameron	810	+10	820

6	6	-11	Carole Eden	874	+12	886
7	6	-92	Brian Rowe	(589)		(731)
8	5	+105	Angie Winkler	565	+35	600
9	5	+79	Eileen Mills	768	+8	776
10	5	-49	Mohammed Hegazi	943	-24	919
11	5	-115	Ann Goodwin	792	-9	783
12	5	-134	Gianna Devcic	906	-17	889
13	4	+290	Irlande Alfred	971	-58	913
14	4	+67	Marisa Nuccitelli	770	-27	743
15	3.5	-257	Judith Westwood	762	-29	733
16	3	-444	Mary Mackie	594	-12	582
17	2.5	-402	Balada Catanchin	632	-31	601
18	0	-787	*Trudy Kennedy			(500)

Version 2 of results accepted and recorded as final

Ran k	Player	Win s	Margi n	Rating change		
1	Gillian Renwick	9	670	974	+5	1030
2	Elize Plaganyi	8	303	803	+6	870
3	Norma Engel	7	320	911	+2	935
4	Lina Camilleri	6	362	802	+2	822
5	Eileen Mills	6	109	768	+2	796
6	Gayle Cameron	6	95	810	+1	820
7	Carole Eden	6	-11	874	+1	886
8	Brian Rowe	6	-92	589)	731
9	Angie Winkler	5	105	565	+3	600
10	Ann Goodwin	5	-115	792	-	783
11	Gianna Devcic	5	-134	906	-1	889

12	Irlande Alfred	4	290	971	-5	913
13	Marisa Nuccitelli	4	67	770	-2	743
14	Mohammed Hegazi	4	-79	943	-4	899
15	Judith Westwood	3.5	-257	762	-2	733
16	Mary Mackie	3	-444	594	-1	583
17	Balada Catanchin	2.5	-402	632	-3	601
18	Trudy Kennedy	0	-787			500

Final accepted results of Lina Camilleri

Rou nd	Opponent			Scores		Mar gin	Wi ns	Cu m. Mar gin
1	594	Mary Mackie	[H] [S]	394	264	130	1	130
2	810	Gayle Cameron	[H] [S]	380	295	85	2	215
3	974	Gillian Renwick	[H] [S]	328	365	-59	2	156
4	565	Angie Winkler	[H] [S]	423	294	129	3	285
5	803	Elize Plaganyi	[H] [S]	295	367	-72	3	213
6	768	Eileen Mills	[H] [S]	316	344	-8	3	205
7	911	Norma Engel	[H] [S]	270	320	-50	3	155
8	792	Judith Westwood	[H] [S]	407	329	78	4	233
9	906	Gianna Devcic	[H] [S]	364	324	23	5	256

Some Bizzare and Odd things around us...

[Odd Stuff](#), Aug 15, 2014

Beauty of the nature lies in viewer's eyes. A photograph is just a way to show or represent that beauty. Here is a bunch of some wonderful pictures which are not only the example of beautiful photography but are also a photograph of some miracles happening in the world. You can also call it the creativity and innovation of photographer's mind. I think it was at the peak while taking these pictures. Some photographs are just the example of wonder created by God.

Some are really very cute and heart touching. Some are the scenes which go thorough our are eyes almost everyday but we do not see them with the way these photographs want us to show.

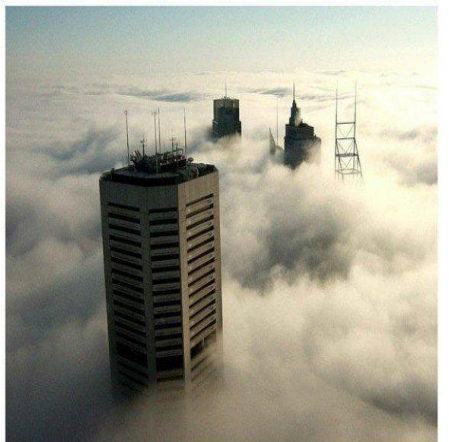
I am simply in love with these photographs and I am sure you will too. Here are also some scenes which you might not get to see in your life ever.



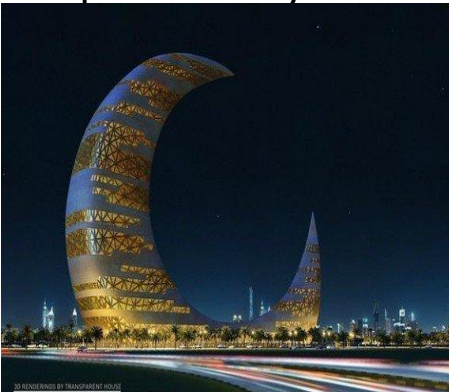
Morning Glory – kind of clouds observed in the [Gulf of Carpentaria](#) in northern Australia.



The river above the river: [Magdeburg Water Bridge](#), Germany.



Heavy fog in Sydney, which enveloped the whole city.



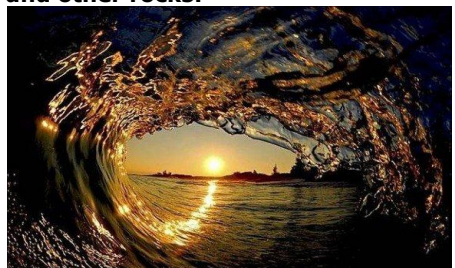
Skyscraper-Crescent Moon Tower, Dubai.



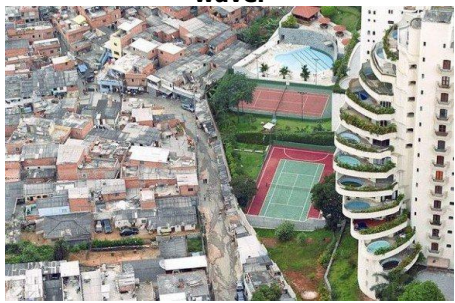
Airport in the Maldives is located on an [artificial island](#) in the middle of the Indian Ocean.



This is a unique geological phenomenon known as [Danxia landform](#). These phenomena can be observed in several places in China. This example is located in [Zhangye](#), Province of [Gansu](#). The color is the result of an accumulation for millions of years of red sandstone and other rocks.



View of the sunset from inside the wave.



[Favelas](#) of Brazil. The boundary between wealth and poverty.



[Banpo Bridge](#) in Seoul, South Korea.



[Haus Rizzi](#) – Germany.



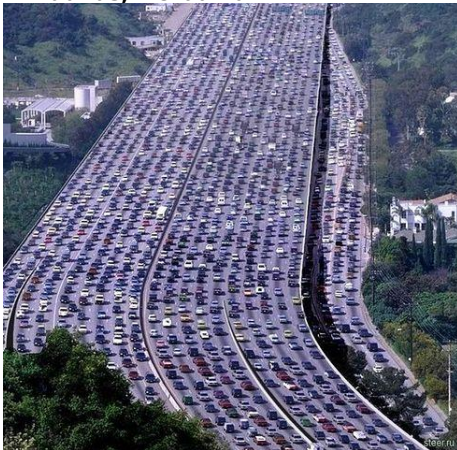
Paris computer games store. In fact, the floor is absolutely flat.



An unusual tunnel in California's [Sequoia National Park](#).



Day and night. The monument in Kaunas, Lithuania.



The longest traffic jam in the world recorded in China. Its length is 260 kilometers.



In the Chinese province of [Shandong](#) is a bridge across the Gulf of Jiaozhou. The bridge length over 36 km is calculated for eight car lanes, and is the longest sea bridge in the world.



These trees grow in the [forest](#) near Gryfino, Poland. The cause of the curvature is unknown.



This statue, created by Bruno Catalano, is located in France.



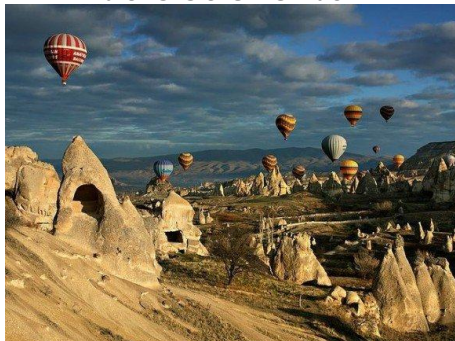
In the border between Belgium and the Netherlands in a cafe.



Dubai. The view from the skyscraper [BurjKhalifa](#). The height of buildings is 828 m (163 floors).



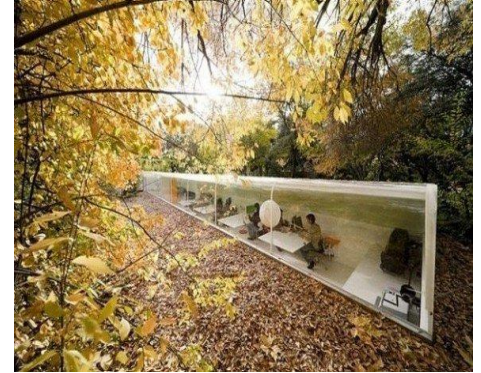
And this is the view down.



Balloons in [Cappadocia](#).



Desert with [Phacelia](#) (Scorpion Weed). Flowering once in several years.



Office of Selgas Cano in Madrid.



Emerald Lake in the crater of an extinct volcano. [Tongariro National Park](#) – NewZealand.



The world's highest chained [carousel](#), located in Vienna, the height of 117 meters.

<http://oddstuffmagazine.com/some-bizzare-and-odd-things-around-us.html>